

Landowners may enroll in wheat stubble management program by July 1

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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Landowners in parts of south-central Nebraska have until July 1 to enroll wheat stubble acres into an incentive program offered under the South-Central Focus on Pheasants Initiative. The goals of the program are to increase and improve pheasant habitat, increase bird populations and provide additional public hunting access on private land.

The Wheat Stubble Management Program will be offered in southern Harlan and Furnas counties, an area known as the South-Central Focus on Pheasants area.

In this new program, landowners are eligible to receive a \$15-per-acre incentive for leaving wheat stubble taller than 15 inches undisturbed until April 1. Each landowner may enroll up to 320 acres per year for two years.

Although optional, landowners earn additional \$3-per-acre payments if they allow public walk-in hunting access. Similar incentives will be offered for tall milo stubble before the fall harvest.

Leaving tall stubble provides multiple benefits to agriculture producers in dryland cropping rotations, including moisture savings and higher subsequent yields. Pheasants, quail and other grassland birds also benefit from the taller cover and food resources provided.

Focus on Pheasants is a joint effort by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Pheasants Forever and conservation partners to increase the pheasant population by creating and enhancing habitat through practices such as stubble management, interseeding, light disking, prescribed burning and the planting of native grasses and forbs.

Interested landowners should call Game and Parks' John Laux at 308-928-2541 or Justin Haahr at 308-865-5308.